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L7: Entry 1 of 2

File: JPAB

Nov 6, 2001

PUB-NO: JP02001310396A

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: JP 2001310396 A

TITLE: METHOD FOR PRODUCING PNEUMATIC TIRE

PUBN-DATE: November 6, 2001

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME

COUNTRY

ASADA, SATORU

ASSIGNEE-INFORMATION:

NAME

COUNTRY

SUMITOMO RUBBER IND LTD

APPL-NO: JP2000128136

APPL-DATE: April 27, 2000

INT-CL (IPC): B29 D 30/58; B29 B 11/10; B60 C 1/00; C08 K 7/02; C08 L 21/00

ABSTRACT:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a method for producing a pneumatic tire which can orient short fibers in tread rubber easily in the radius direction of the tire.

SOLUTION: An unvulcanized rubber material M containing the short fibers f is extruded to form a rubber sheet S in which the fibers f are oriented substantially in the extrusion direction. Notches 10, the depth of which is smaller than the thickness of the sheet S, are formed approximately perpendicularly to the extrusion direction and in the thickness direction of the sheet S alternately in one surface Sa and the other surface Sb of the sheet S. The sheet S is folded in the direction to spread the notches 10, and the surfaces Sa, Sb are laid to overlap each other to be laminated. In this way, a raw tread rubber body in which the fibers f are oriented in the thickness direction is formed. With the use of the tread rubber body, a raw cover in which the fibers f are oriented approximately in the radius direction of the tire is formed and vulcanized.

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L7: Entry 2 of 2

File: DWPI

Nov 6, 2001

DERWENT-ACC-NO: 2002-151426

DERWENT-WEEK: 200243

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TITLE: Manufacturing method of pneumatic tire, involves vulcanizing raw rubber tread to form rubber tread with short fiber oriented in radius direction

PATENT-ASSIGNEE:

ASSIGNEE

CODE

SUMITOMO RUBBER IND LTD

SUMR

PRIORITY-DATA: 2000JP-0128136 (April 27, 2000)

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PATENT-FAMILY:

| PUB-NO | PUB-DATE | LANGUAGE | PAGES | MAIN-IPC |
|--|------------------|----------|-------|------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> JP 2001310396 A | November 6, 2001 | | 008 | B29D030/58 |

APPLICATION-DATA:

| PUB-NO | APPL-DATE | APPL-NO | DESCRIPTOR |
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| JP2001310396A | April 27, 2000 | 2000JP-0128136 | |

INT-CL (IPC): [B29 B 11/10](#); [B29 D 30/58](#); [B29 K 105:14](#); [B60 C 1/00](#); [C08 K 7/02](#); [C08 L 21/00](#)

ABSTRACTED-PUB-NO: JP2001310396A

BASIC-ABSTRACT:

NOVELTY - A manufacturing method of pneumatic tire, involves forming slits (10a,10b) of small depth on both sides (Sa,Sb) of non-vulcanized rubber sheet with short fiber (f) dispersed along extrusion direction.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION - A manufacturing method of pneumatic tire, involves forming slits (10a,10b) of small depth on both sides (Sa,Sb) of non-vulcanized rubber sheet with short fiber (f) dispersed along extrusion direction. Rubber sheet is folded alternatively with reference to the slit to form raw rubber tread in which short fibers are oriented in thickness direction. The raw rubber tread is vulcanized to form rubber tread with short fibers oriented in radius direction.

USE - For vehicles running in ice and snow covered roads.

ADVANTAGE - Orientation of short fiber pieces in rubber tread along radius direction is achieved, so running performance of tire in ice and snow covered road

becomes excellent.

DESCRIPTION OF DRAWING(S) - The figure shows a perspective diagram of pneumatic tire manufacturing method.

Slits 10a,10b

Short fiber f

Sides of non-vulcanized rubber sheet Sa,Sb

CHOSEN-DRAWING: Dwg.2/11

TITLE-TERMS: MANUFACTURE METHOD PNEUMATIC VULCANISATION RAW RUBBER TREAD FORM
RUBBER TREAD SHORT ORIENT RADIUS DIRECTION

DERWENT-CLASS: A32 A95 Q11

CPI-CODES: A11-B17; A11-C02A1; A12-T01;

ENHANCED-POLYMER-INDEXING:

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N9999 N7261 Polymer Index [1.3] 018 ; A999 A419 ; S9999 S1092 S1070

SECONDARY-ACC-NO:

CPI Secondary Accession Numbers: C2002-047591

Non-CPI Secondary Accession Numbers: N2002-114859

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【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】短繊維を含む未加硫のゴム材料を押出して前記短繊維を実質的に前記押出し方向に配向したゴムシートを成形するとともに、このゴムシートに、前記押出し方向と略直角かつゴムシートの厚さ方向に該厚さよりも小深さの切り込みを該ゴムシートの一方の面と他方の面とに交互に形成する工程と、

前記ゴムシートを前記切り込みを広げる向きに折り曲げて前記一方の面と他方の面とを交互に重ねて積層することにより、前記短繊維が厚さ方向に配向された生トレッドゴム体を形成する工程と、

この生トレッドゴム体を用いて前記短繊維が略タイヤ半径方向に配向された生カバーを形成しかつ加硫する工程とを含むことを特徴とする空気入りタイヤの製造方法。

【請求項2】前記ゴム材料は、ゴム成分100重量部に対して0.5～20重量部の短繊維を含んでなる請求項1記載の空気入りタイヤの製造方法。

【請求項3】前記切り込みは、その切り込み深さDが前記ゴムシートの厚さ t の40～95%であることを特徴とする請求項1又は2記載の空気入りタイヤの製造方法。

【請求項4】前記一方の面に形成される切り込みは、他方の面の切り込みとの間で前記トレッドゴム体の厚さと略等しいピッチを隔てることを特徴とする請求項1乃至3のいずれかに記載の空気入りタイヤの製造方法。

【発明の詳細な説明】

【0001】

【発明の属する技術分野】本発明は、トレッドゴムにタイヤ半径方向に配向された短繊維を含む空気入りタイヤを好適に製造する空気入りタイヤの製造方法に関する。

【0002】

【従来の技術及び発明が解決しようとする課題】近年、氷雪路を走行するスタッドレスタイヤでは、氷上性能を向上させるために、路面掘り起こし摩擦や粘着摩擦を増加させる必要があり、従来から、トレッドゴムの氷路面に対する摩擦係数を上げる種々の研究が試みられている。その一つとして、トレッドゴム中に短繊維を配合することが提案されている。また、トレッドゴム中の短繊維をタイヤ半径方向に沿って配向させておくと、短繊維による路面掘り起こし能力が高まり、より高い摩擦力が得られることが知られている。

【0003】ところで、図11に示すように、トレッドゴム g は、通常、カレンダーロールや押し機によって帯状に連続して押し出し成形される。そのため、流動性を有するゴム中に配合された短繊維 f は、ゴムの流れ方向に従ってその大部分が押し出し方向（タイヤ周方向）に沿って配向されてしまう。このような、トレッドゴムをそのまま用いてタイヤを製造した場合、短繊維はトレッドゴムのタイヤ周方向に沿って配向されてしまい、上述の

高い路面掘り起こし能力を十分発揮することができない。

【0004】本発明は、以上のような問題点に鑑み案出されたもので、短繊維を含む未加硫のゴム材料を押出して短繊維を実質的に押し出し方向に配向したゴムシートを成形するとともに、このゴムシートに、前記押し出し方向と略直角かつゴムシートの厚さ方向に該厚さよりも小深さの切り込みを該ゴムシートの一方の面と他方の面とに交互に形成し、この切り込みを広げる向きに折り曲げて前記一方の面と他方の面とを交互に重ねて積層することにより、前記短繊維が厚さ方向に配向された生トレッドゴム体を形成する工程を含むことを基本として、トレッドゴム中に短繊維がタイヤ半径方向に配向された空気入りタイヤを容易に製造する空気入りタイヤの製造方法を提供することを目的としている。

【0005】

【課題を解決するための手段】本発明のうち請求項1記載の発明は、短繊維を含む未加硫のゴム材料を押出して前記短繊維を実質的に前記押し出し方向に配向したゴムシートを成形するとともに、このゴムシートに、前記押し出し方向と略直角かつゴムシートの厚さ方向に該厚さよりも小深さの切り込みを該ゴムシートの一方の面と他方の面とに交互に形成する工程と、前記ゴムシートを前記切り込みを広げる向きに折り曲げて前記一方の面と他方の面とを交互に重ねて積層することにより、前記短繊維が厚さ方向に配向された生トレッドゴム体を形成する工程と、この生トレッドゴム体を用いて前記短繊維が略タイヤ半径方向に配向された生カバーを形成しかつ加硫する工程とを含むことを特徴とする空気入りタイヤの製造方法である。

【0006】前記ゴム材料は、例えばゴム成分100重量部に対して0.5～20重量部の短繊維を含むことが望ましい。また前記切り込みは、その切り込み深さDが前記ゴムシートの厚さ t の40～95%であることが望ましい。さらに前記一方の面に形成される切り込みは、他方の面の切り込みとの間で前記トレッドゴム体の厚さと略等しいピッチを隔てることが望ましい。

【0007】

【発明の実施の形態】以下本発明の実施の一形態を図面に基づき説明する。本発明の空気入りタイヤの製造方法では、図1に示すような空気入りタイヤを製造することができる。図において、空気入りタイヤ1は、トレッド部2からサイドウォール部3を経てビード部4のビードコア5に至るカーカス6と、このカーカス6のタイヤ半径方向外側かつトレッド部2の内部に配されたベルト層7とを具えた乗用車用のものを例示している。

【0008】前記カーカス6は、カーカスコードをタイヤ赤道Cに対して75°～90°の角度で配列したラジアル構造の1枚以上、本例では1枚のカーカスブライ6Aから構成されている。前記カーカスコードは、本例で

はポリエステルコードが採用されるが、これ以外にもナイロン、レーヨンなどの有機繊維コード、さらにはタイヤの種類に応じてアラミドコードやスチールコードをも採用しうる。またカーカスプライ6Aは、トレッド部2からサイドウォール部3を経てビード部4のビードコア5に至る本体部6aと、この本体部6aからのびて前記ビードコア5の廻りで折り返される折返し部6bとを有し、前記本体部6aと折返し部6bとの間には、前記ビードコア5からタイヤ半径方向外側にのびかつ硬質ゴムからなるビードエベックス8を充たしてビード部4を補強する。

【0009】前記ベルト層7は、高弾性のコードをタイヤ赤道に対して10〜45°の小角度で傾けて配列した少なくとも2枚、本例では内、外2枚のベルトプライ7A、7Bを前記コードが互いに交差する向きに重ね合わせて構成し前記カーカス6をタガ締めしている。前記コードは、本例ではスチールコードを採用しているが、アラミド、レーヨン等の他の高弾性の有機繊維コードも必要に応じて用いることができる。

【0010】前記ベルト層7のタイヤ半径方向外側にはトレッド面2aをなすトレッドゴム9が配置されている。このトレッドゴム9は、本例ではタイヤ半径方向内側に配されたベースゴム部9aと、このベースゴム部9aの外側に配されたキャップゴム部9bとを含むとともに、ベースゴム部9a、キャップゴム部9bのタイヤ軸方向の側縁に配された断面略三角形形状のウイングゴム部9cを含むものが例示される。

【0011】本例の空気入りタイヤ1は、前記ベースゴム部9aが短繊維fを含まないゴム材料にて構成されている。また前記キャップゴム部9bは、短繊維fを含むゴム材料を用いて形成されるとともに、その短繊維fは略タイヤ半径方向に配向されている。このような空気入りタイヤでは、走行によりトレッド面2aのゴム表面が薄く摩耗しその表面に摩耗速度がゴムよりも遅い短繊維fの端面が小長さで髭状に露出する。この短繊維fが路面と接地しかつ路面を掘り起こす動きをなすため、特に滑りやすい氷路面での摩擦係数が高められ走行性能の大幅な向上が期待できる。また短繊維fは、路面の細かな凹凸に追随する柔らかさを保持でき、粘着・凝着摩擦を改善できる。

【0012】さらに短繊維fを上述のように配向したことにより、接地圧が短繊維fの長手方向に作用するため、この短繊維fにより接地面内には局部的に接地圧が高い部分が疎らに作り出される。従って、例えばタイヤ空転時などに氷路面とトレッド面との間に発生する水膜を押しおけるなどワイピング効果が生じ、粘着・凝着摩擦をさらに改善するとともに、路面引っ掻き・掘りおこし摩擦をも同時に向上させることが可能となる。なお「短繊維が略タイヤ半径方向に配向される」とは、短繊維fの実質的な長手方向がタイヤ半径方向に完全に沿う

場合の他、前記短繊維fの長手方向とタイヤ半径方向線とのなす角度が30度以下である状態を含むものとする。

【0013】次にこのような空気入りタイヤの製造方法について説明する。本実施形態では、図2に示すように、先ず短繊維fを含む未加硫のゴム材料Mを、例えば一對の上、下のローラR1、R2を有するロール押出装Aを用いて押し出し成形している。これにより、前記ゴム材料M中に含まれる短繊維fを実質的に前記押し出し方向に配向させた小厚さのゴムシートSが成形できる。

【0014】前記ゴム材料Mは、例えばゴム成分100重量部に対して短繊維fを0.5〜20重量部を配合することが望ましく、その他適宜必要な添加剤、加硫促進剤などの薬品が合わせて配合され混練される。前記ゴム成分としては、ジエン系ゴムが好ましく、例えば天然ゴム、イソプレンゴム、スチレンブタジエンゴム、ブタジエンゴム、クロロプレンゴム、アクリロニトリルブタジエンゴムなどの1種又は2種以上をブレンドして用いることができる。

【0015】また前記短繊維fとしては、有機物又は無機物のいずれでも構わないが、路面を傷つける恐れがなく、かつゴムとの摩耗速度の差が比較的小さいカーボンファイバ、グラスファイバ等の非金属の短繊維fを使用することが、氷路面に対する優れた接地性を確保する上でも好ましいものとなる。特に前記グラスファイバーまたはカーボンファイバーは、ゴムを混練りする過程で適度な長さで折れて短くなるため、ゴム中に均一に分散および配向させやすい点でも好ましい。

【0016】なお前記短繊維fの配合量が、ゴム成分100重量部に対して20重量部を超えるとゴムとの接着力が低下したり、またトレッドゴムが硬くなるなどの傾向があり、逆に0.5重量部未満ではトレッド面2aに十分な路面引っ掻き効果を付与できなくなる傾向がある。より好ましくは短繊維fの配合量が、ゴム成分100重量部に対して1〜10重量部となるように配合する。

【0017】また前記短繊維fは、例えばその平均繊維径が1〜100μm、好ましくは3〜50μmの範囲に属するものが好ましく、かつ短繊維fの平均繊維長さは、例えば0.1〜5.0mm、より好ましくは0.1〜2.0mm程度とするのが望ましい。前記平均繊維径が1μm未満又は前記短繊維の平均繊維長さが0.1mm未満であると、短繊維の強度が不足したりまた長さが短すぎて氷路での路面掻き取り効果を十分に発揮し得ない傾向があり、逆に前記平均繊維径が100μmを超えたり又は平均繊維長さが5.0mmを超えると、短繊維自体の剛性が過大となったり、さらには形状が長くなりすぎてゴムとの接着性が低下し加硫後に亀裂等が生じやすくなる。

【0018】また前記ゴムシートSの厚さt、巾(図示

省略)などは必要に応じ種々定めることができるが、本例ではゴムシートSの厚さ t を1.5mm、巾(押出し方向と直角な巾)を300mmとしたものを例示している。なおゴムシートSの厚さ t の調節には、上、下のローラR1、R2の間隙を変えることなどにより容易に行うことができる。

【0019】次に本実施形態では、切り込み形成装置Bを用いて前記ゴムシートSに、前記押出し方向と略直角かつゴムシートSの厚さ方向に該厚さよりも小深さの切り込み10を該ゴムシートSの一方の面Sa(図2では上面)と他方の面Sb(図2では下面)とに交互に形成する工程を行う。前記切り込み形成装置Bは、本例ではゴムシートSの前記一方の面Saに切り込み10aを形成しうる第1の切り込み具12と、前記ゴムシートSの前記他方の面Sbに切り込み10bを形成しうる第2の切り込み具13とを含んで構成されている。

【0020】前記第1、第2の切り込み具12、13は、本例では前記押出し方向に並んで配されるとともに、前記ゴムシートSの巾方向にのびかつ図示しないアクチュエータ等により上下に移動制御可能に配された切刃12a、13aと、この各切刃12a、13aとはゴムシートSを介して反対側に位置する受けローラ12b、13bとを具えたものを例示する。このような切り込み具12、13は、押出し方向に送給されてくるゴムシートSの一方の面、他方の面に切刃12a、13aを押圧し、受けローラ12b、13bとの間でゴムシートを挟むことで所定深さの切り込み10を形成できる。また図2、図3に示す如く、前記ゴムシートSには、押出し方向と略直角かつゴムシートSの厚さ方向に該厚さよりも小深さの切り込み10を該ゴムシートSの一方の面Saと他方の面Sbとに交互に順次形成する。

【0021】次に本実施形態では、前記切り込み10を形成したゴムシートSを、図4、図5に示すように、該切り込み10を広げる向きに折り曲げて前記一方の面Saと他方の面Sbとを交互に重ねて積層する。前記ゴムシートSの切り込み10は、押出し方向で隣り合う切り込み10a、10bが互いにゴムシートSの異なる面に形成されているため、前記切り込み10a、10bを広げる向きにゴムシートSを折り曲げると、該ゴムシートSの一方の面Saを基準とした場合、いわゆる山折り、谷折りを交互に繰り返しながら積層できる。このような折り曲げかつ積層を行うことにより、図4、図5に示した如く、押出し方向に短繊維を配向したゴムシートSから、前記短繊維fが厚さTの方向に配向された生トレッドゴム体Gを形成することができる。

【0022】ここで、前記切り込み10の切り込み深さD(図3に示す)が深すぎると、その折り曲げ時にゴムシートSが切れやすくなり、逆に前記切り込み深さDが小さすぎるとゴムシートSを折り曲げ難くし精度良く折り曲げが行えないなど生産性が低下する傾向がある。こ

のような観点より、前記切り込み深さDは、前記ゴムシートの厚さ t の例えば40~95%、より好ましくは50~80%とすることが望ましい。このような切り込み深さの調節は、前記切り込み形成装置Bの切刃12a、13aのゴムシートSへの押し込み深さを変えることにより容易に行うことができる。

【0023】また図4、図5から明らかなように、ゴムシートSの前記一方の面Saに形成される切り込み10aは、他方の面Sbの切り込み10bとの間で前記トレッドゴム体の厚さTと略等しいピッチPを隔てておくことが望ましいことが分かる。すなわち、切り込み10の前記ピッチPを適宜調節することにより、このピッチPに略等しい厚さTの生トレッドゴム体Gを製造することができる。またこのような切り込み10a、10bのピッチPは、例えば図2に示す如く、ゴムシートSが送給される速度を検知しうる送り速度センサ13を設け、このセンサ13からの検知信号に基づいて切刃12a、13aによるゴムシートSへの押圧の間隔を調節することなどにより容易に行うことができる。

【0024】またこのようなピッチPは、一定であっても良いが、図6(A)に示すように、ピッチP1からピッチP2へ変化させることもできる。この場合、同図(B)に示すように、生トレッドゴム体Gに、予めトレッド面2aに形成される溝に近似した段差17を形成しておくこともできる。

【0025】次に、このような生トレッドゴム体Gを用いて前記短繊維fが略タイヤ半径方向に配向された生カバーを形成し加硫する工程を行う。生トレッドゴム体Gは、単独で用いても良いが、本例では図7に示すように、キャップゴム部9bをなすとともに、ベースゴム部9aと、ウイングゴム部9c、アンダートレッドゴム9dなどと予め合わせて帯状のトレッドゴム部材TGを形成しこれをタイヤの生カバーの成形に用いたものを例示する。なお図8のようにトレッドゴム部材TGを形成することもできる。また生カバーの形成は、例えば図9(A)、(B)に示す如く、円筒状をなす成型用ドラムKにカーカスプライ6Aを巻き付け、ビードコア5、ビードエベックス8などを装着する。その後に、カーカスプライ6Aの両端を折り返し、サイドウォールゴムSGを張りつける。しかる後、図9(B)に示すように、ビード部4の間隔を狭めつつ、タイヤの内腔側からブラダなどの膨張体jでカーカスプライ6Aをトロイド状に膨張変形させつつ、リング状に形成されたベルトプライ7A、7B、トレッドゴム部材TGと合体され、タイヤの生カバーが形成される。

【0026】そして、これを金型で加硫することにより、図1に示したような空気入りタイヤ1を製造することができる。なお生トレッドゴム体Gは、前記ゴムシートSの折り曲げの軸線(すなわち切り込みの長手方向)30が図5に示したようにタイヤ周方向に沿ってのびる

ように用いても良いし、また図10に示すように、前記軸線がタイヤ軸方向に沿うように用いることでも良い。前者の場合、比較的中が大きいゴムシートSを用いる場合にはそのまま使用しうが、巾が小さいゴムシートSを用いたときには、タイヤ周方向に縫ぎ合わせてタイヤ1周分の帯状体を形成することができる。

【0027】以上本発明の実施形態について説明したが、本発明は上記の実施形態に限られず種々の形態に変形し実施することができる。例えば切り込みは、ロール押し装置Aの上、下のローラR1、R2の表面に軸方向にのびる切刃を一体としたものを用いると、ゴムシートSの押し出し成形と同時に切り込みを形成する工程を行うことが可能となる。またロール押し装置Aに代えてスクリー式の押し出機を用いても良い。また切り込み形成装置Bは、上記の実施形態に限定されず、上述のような切り込みを形成できるものであれば、どのような態様で構成されていても良い。

【0028】

【実施例】タイヤサイズが195/65R15でありかつ図1に示す構造を具えた乗用車用スタッドレスタイヤ（実施例品）を本発明の製造方法に従って製造するとともに、テスト車両（FR 排気量約2000cm³）に装着して外気温-4℃の氷路面上で走行テストを行った。また短繊維がタイヤ周方向に配向されたタイヤ（比較例品）についても合わせて試作し、性能を比較した。テスト結果などを表1に示す。

【0029】

【表1】

| | 実施例品 | 比較例品 |
|---------------------------|------|------|
| 操縦安定性（評点） | 4.0 | 2.5 |
| 制動距離（m） [40km/hロック制動時] | 44.0 | 48.5 |
| 登坂性能（評点） [4%勾配] | 4.5 | 3.0 |

【0030】表1において、操縦安定性は、ドライバーの官能により評価した。またブレーキ性能については、速度40km/hからのフルロック制動を行ない車両が呈

するまでの制動距離を測定した。また登坂テストでは、氷路面の4%勾配の登り坂を登る際の性能をドライバーの官能により評価している。これらのテストの結果から実施例品では大幅に氷路での走行性能を高めていることが確認できる。

【0031】

【発明の効果】上述したように、本発明では、トレッドゴム中で短繊維がタイヤ半径方向に配向することにより、氷雪路での走行性能に優れた空気入りタイヤを容易に製造することができる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】本実施形態の製造方法により製造された空気入りタイヤの断面図である。

【図2】本実施形態の製造方法を説明する概念図である。

【図3】ゴムシートの側面図である。

【図4】ゴムシートを折り曲げて積層する状態を例示する側面図である。

【図5】生トレッドゴム体の一例を示す部分斜視図である。

【図6】（A）はゴムシートの他の例を示す側面図、（B）はそれを用いた生トレッドゴム体の側面図である。

【図7】生トレッドゴム体を用いたトレッドゴム部材を例示する断面図である。

【図8】トレッドゴム部材の他の例を示す断面図である。

【図9】（A）、（B）は生カバー成型工程を示す略図である。

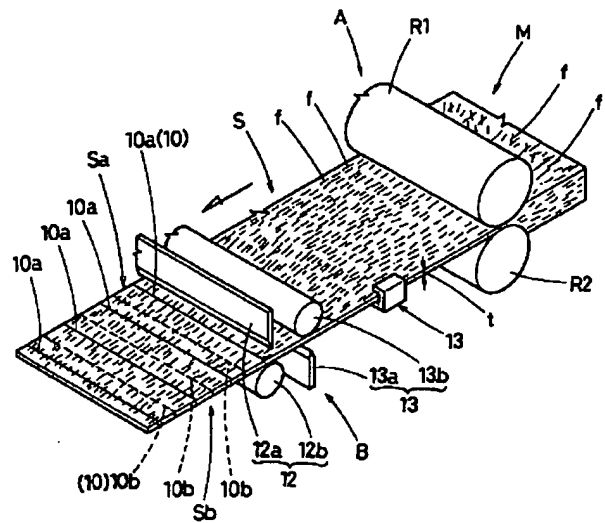
30 【図10】生トレッドゴム体の他の例を示す部分斜視図である。

【図11】従来のトレッドゴムを示す略図である。

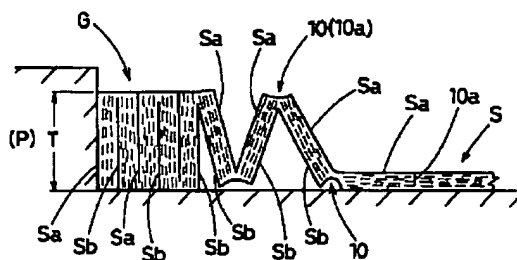
【符号の説明】

- 1 空気入りタイヤ
- 2 トレッド部
- 9 トレッドゴム
- 10、10a、10b 切り込み
- G 生トレッドゴム体
- S ゴムシート
- Sa 一方の面
- Sb 他方の面

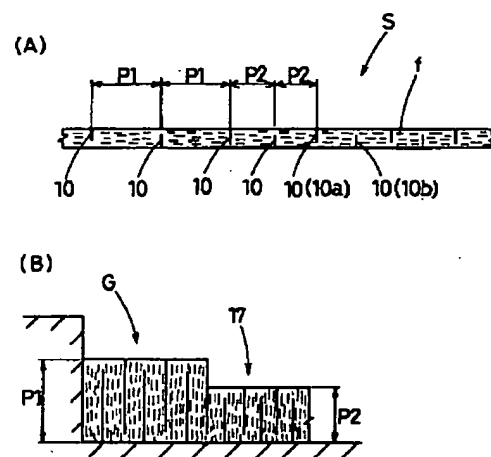
【図2】



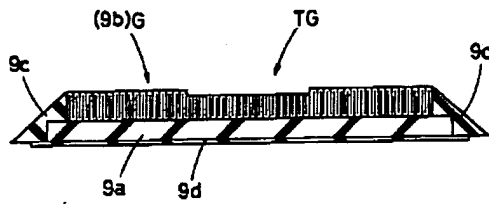
【図4】



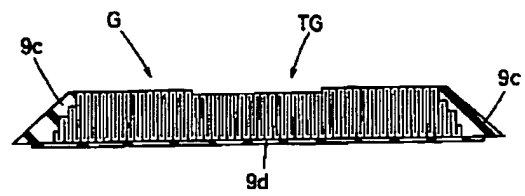
【図6】



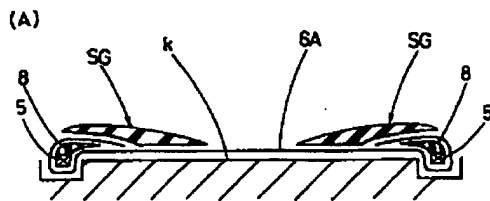
【図7】



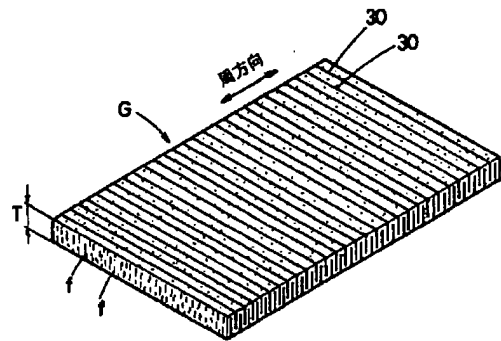
【図8】



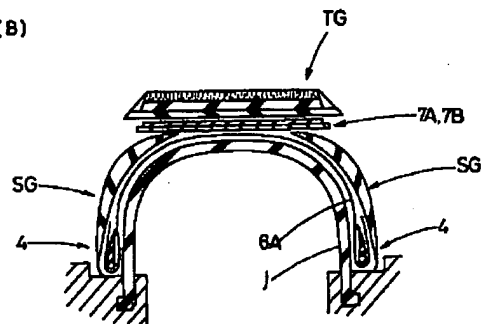
【図9】



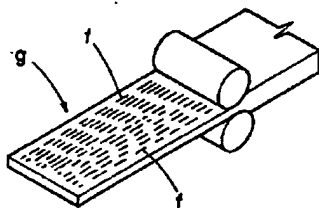
【図10】



(B)



【図11】



フロントページの続き

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1. This document has been translated by computer. So the translation may not reflect the original precisely.
2. **** shows the word which can not be translated.
3. In the drawings, any words are not translated.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention] This invention relates to the manufacture approach of a pneumatic tire that the pneumatic tire containing the staple fiber by which orientation was carried out to tread rubber the tire radial can be manufactured suitably.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] In recent years, in the studless tire which runs a snow-and-ice way, in order to raise the Hikami engine performance, it is necessary to make road surface digging-up friction and sticking friction increase, and the various researches which raise coefficient of friction to the ice road surface of tread rubber are tried from the former. As one of them, blending a staple fiber into tread rubber is proposed. Moreover, if orientation of the staple fiber in tread rubber is carried out in accordance with the tire radial, the road surface digging-up capacity by the staple fiber increases, and it is known that higher frictional force will be acquired.

[0003] By the way, as shown in drawing 11, extrusion molding of the tread rubber g is usually continued and carried out to band-like by the calendering roll or the extruder. Therefore, according to the flow direction of rubber, as for the staple fiber f blended into the rubber which has a fluidity, orientation of the most will be carried out along the direction of extrusion (tire hoop direction). When a tire is manufactured using such tread rubber as it is, orientation of the staple fiber will be carried out along the tire hoop direction of tread rubber, and it cannot demonstrate enough above-mentioned high road surface digging-up capacity.

[0004] think out this invention in view of the above troubles, while fabricating the rubber sheet which extruded the rubber ingredient which is not vulcanized [which is ** and contains a staple fiber], and carried out orientation of the staple fiber in the direction of extrusion substantially Form in said direction of extrusion and abbreviation right angle, and the thickness direction of a rubber sheet at this rubber sheet, and slitting of the small depth is formed in one field of this rubber sheet, and the field of another side by turns rather than this thickness. By bending to the sense which extends this slitting and carrying out the laminating of one [said] field and the field of another side in piles by turns It aims at offering the manufacture approach of a pneumatic tire that the pneumatic tire with which orientation of the staple fiber was carried out to the tire radial into tread rubber on the basis of including the process at which said staple fiber forms the raw tread rubber object by which orientation was carried out in the thickness direction can be manufactured easily.

[0005]

[Means for Solving the Problem] While invention according to claim 1 fabricates the rubber sheet which extruded the rubber ingredient which is not vulcanized containing a staple fiber, and carried out orientation of said staple fiber in said direction of extrusion substantially among this inventions The process which forms in said direction of extrusion and abbreviation right angle, and the thickness direction of a rubber sheet at this rubber sheet, and forms slitting of the small depth in one field of this rubber sheet, and the field of another side by turns rather than this thickness, By bending said rubber sheet to the sense which extends said slitting, and carrying out the laminating of one [said] field and the field of another side in piles by turns It is the manufacture approach of the pneumatic tire characterized by including the process at which said staple fiber forms the raw tread rubber object by which orientation was carried out in the thickness direction, and the process which forms and vulcanizes raw covering with which orientation of said staple fiber was carried out to the abbreviation tire radial using this raw tread rubber object.

[0006] As for said rubber ingredient, it is desirable to include the staple fiber of 0.5 - 20 weight section for example, to the rubber component 100 weight section. Moreover, as for said slitting, it is desirable for the slitting depth D to be 40 - 95% of thickness t of said rubber sheet. As for slitting furthermore formed in one [said] field, it is desirable for the thickness of said tread rubber object, abbreviation, etc. to be by carrying out between slitting of the field of another side, and to separate a pitch.

[0007]

[Embodiment of the Invention] One gestalt of operation of this invention is explained based on a drawing below. By the manufacture approach of the pneumatic tire of this invention, a pneumatic tire as shown in drawing 1 can be manufactured. In drawing, the pneumatic tire 1 has illustrated the thing equipped with the belt layer 7 allotted to the interior of the tread section 2 to the tire radial outside of the carcass 6 which results in the bead core 5 of a toe of bead 4 through the sidewall section 3, and this carcass 6 and the tread section 2 for passenger cars.

[0008] Said carcass 6 is constituted from carcass ply of one sheet 6A by one or more sheets of radial structure which arranged the carcass code at the include angle of 75 degrees - 90 degrees to the tire equator C, and this example. Said carcass code can also adopt an aramid code and a steel code as organic fiber codes, such as nylon and rayon, and a pan according to the class of tire

besides this, although a polyester code is adopted in this example. Moreover, body section 6a with carcass ply 6A from the tread section 2 to [a] the bead core 5 of a toe of bead 4 through the sidewall section 3, It has cuff section 6b which is extended from this body section 6a, and is turned up around said bead core 5, bead EPEKKUSU 8 which becomes said body section 6a from mileage and hard rubber from said bead core 5 between section 6b by return on the tire radial outside is filled, and a toe of bead 4 is reinforced.

[0009] at least two sheets which said belt layer 7 leaned the code of high elasticity by whenever [10-45-degree corniculus] to the tire equator, and were arranged, and the sense which said code intersects mutually in the belt plies 7A and 7B of two sheets inside and outside in this example -- piling up -- constituting -- said carcass 6 -- a hoop -- the bundle is carried out. Although the steel code is used for said code by this example, the organic fiber code of other high elasticity, such as aramid and rayon, can also be used if needed.

[0010] The tread rubber 9 which makes tread side 2a is arranged on the tire radial outside of said belt layer 7. While this tread rubber 9 contains base rubber section 9a allotted to the tire radial inside in this example, and cap rubber section 9b allotted to the outside of this base rubber section 9a, the thing containing wing rubber section 9c of the shape of a cross-section abbreviation triangle allotted to the side edge of the tire shaft orientations of base rubber section 9a and cap rubber section 9b is illustrated.

[0011] The pneumatic tire 1 of this example consists of rubber ingredients with which said base rubber section 9a does not contain a staple fiber. Moreover, while said cap rubber section 9b is formed using the rubber ingredient containing a staple fiber f, orientation of the staple fiber f is carried out to the abbreviation tire radial. In such a pneumatic tire, the rubber front face of tread side 2a is thinly worn out by transit, and the end face of the staple fiber f with a wear rate slower than rubber is exposed to the front face in the shape of a mustache with small die length. Since the work to which this staple fiber f grounds with a road surface, and digs up a road surface is made, coefficient of friction in the ice road surface on which it is especially easy to slide is raised, and the large improvement in performance-traverse ability can be expected. Moreover, a staple fiber f can hold the softness which follows in footsteps of fine irregularity of a road surface, and can improve adhesion and adhesion friction.

[0012] In order that ground pressure may act on the longitudinal direction of a staple fiber f by furthermore having carried out orientation of the staple fiber f as mentioned above, a part with high ground pressure is made by non-denses locally in a ground plane with this staple fiber f. While a wiping effect, such as pushing away the water screen which follows, for example, is generated between an ice road surface and a tread side at the time of a tire slip etc., arises and improving adhesion and adhesion friction further, it becomes possible to also raise road surface ***** and digging-up frictional force to coincidence. In addition, the include angle of the longitudinal direction of said staple fiber f besides in case the substantial longitudinal direction of a staple fiber f meets ["orientation of the staple fiber is carried out to the abbreviation tire radial" and] the tire radial completely and a tire radius directional traverse to make shall include the condition of being 30 or less degrees.

[0013] Next, the manufacture approach of such a pneumatic tire is explained. With this operation gestalt, as shown in drawing 2, extrusion molding of the rubber ingredient M which is not vulcanized [which contains a staple fiber f first] is carried out using the roll equipment for launching A which has the rollers R1 and R2 of on a pair and the bottom. The rubber sheet S of the small thickness to which the orientation of the staple fiber f contained in said rubber ingredient M was made by this to carry out in said direction of extrusion substantially can be fabricated.

[0014] For example, to the rubber component 100 weight section, chemicals, such as an additive which it is desirable blending 0.5 - 20 weight section, in addition needs it suitably, and a vulcanization accelerator, set a staple fiber f and said rubber ingredient M is blended, and is kneaded. As said rubber component, diene system rubber is desirable, for example, can blend and use one sort, such as natural rubber, polyisoprene rubber, styrene butadiene rubber, butadiene rubber, chloroprene rubber, and acrylonitrile-butadiene rubber, or two sorts or more.

[0015] Moreover, as said staple fiber f, although any of the organic substance or an inorganic substance are sufficient, it will become desirable that there is no possibility of damaging a road surface, and the difference of a wear rate with rubber uses the staple fiber f of nonmetals, such as a comparatively small carbon fiber and a glass fiber, also when securing the outstanding road-hugging to an ice road surface. Since especially said glass fiber or a KAPON fiber breaks into moderate die length with the process in which rubber is kneaded and becomes short in it, it is desirable to homogeneity in rubber also at distribution and the point which is easy to carry out orientation.

[0016] In addition, if the loadings of said staple fiber f exceed 20 weight sections to the rubber component 100 weight section, adhesive strength with rubber will decline, and there are inclinations, like tread rubber becomes hard, and there is an inclination it becomes impossible to give road surface ***** effectiveness conversely sufficient in under the 0.5 weight section for tread side 2a. More preferably, it blends so that the loadings of a staple fiber f may serve as 1 - 10 weight section to the rubber component 100 weight section.

[0017] Moreover, said staple fiber f has that desirable to which 1-100 micrometers of the average ***** belong to the range of 3-50 micrometers preferably, for example, and, as for the average fiber length of a staple fiber f, it is desirable for about 0.1-2.0mm to cost 0.1-5.0mm more preferably, for example. If less than 1 micrometer or the average fiber length of said staple fiber is less than 0.1mm, said diameter of average fiber If the reinforcement of a staple fiber runs short, or there is an inclination that die length is too short again and the road surface scraping effectiveness in **** cannot fully be demonstrated, said diameter of average fiber exceeds 100 micrometers conversely or average fiber length exceeds 5.0mm The rigidity of the staple fiber itself becomes excessive, or a configuration becomes long too much further, an adhesive property with rubber falls, and it becomes easy to produce a crack etc. after vulcanization.

[0018] Moreover, although thickness [of said rubber sheet S] t, width (illustration abbreviation), etc. can be defined variously if



needed, in this example, what set thickness t of a rubber sheet S to 1.5mm, and set width (the direction of extrusion and right-angled width) to 300mm is illustrated. In addition, it can carry out to accommodation of thickness t of a rubber sheet S easily by changing the gap of the rollers $R1$ and $R2$ of the upper bottom etc.

[0019] Next, with this operation gestalt, the process which forms in said direction of extrusion and abbreviation right angle, and the thickness direction of a rubber sheet S at said rubber sheet S , and forms the slitting 10 of the small depth in one field Sa (drawing 2 top face) of this rubber sheet S and the field Sb (drawing 2 inferior surface of tongue) of another side by turns rather than this thickness using slitting formation equipment B is performed. Said slitting formation equipment B consists of these examples including the 1st slitting implement 12 which cuts deeply to one [said] field Sa of a rubber sheet S , and can form 10a, and the 2nd slitting implement 13 which cuts deeply to the field Sb of said another side of said rubber sheet S , and can form 10b. [0020] while the said 1st and 2nd slitting implement 12 and 13 is allotted together with said direction of extrusion by this example -- the cross direction of said rubber sheet S -- mileage, the actuator which is not illustrated -- up and down -- migration -- the cutting edges 12a and 13a allotted controllable -- this -- each -- cutting edges 12a and 13a illustrate the thing equipped with the receptacle rollers 12b and 13b located in the opposite side through a rubber sheet S . Such slitting implements 12 and 13 press cutting edges 12a and 13a to one field of the rubber sheet S fed in the direction of extrusion, and the field of another side, and the slitting 10 of the predetermined depth can be formed by inserting a rubber sheet among the receptacle rollers 12b and 13b. Moreover, as shown in drawing 2 and drawing 3, sequential formation of the slitting 10 of the small depth is carried out in the direction of extrusion, an abbreviation right angle, and the thickness direction of a rubber sheet S by turns rather than this thickness at said rubber sheet S at one field Sa of this rubber sheet S , and the field Sb of another side.

[0021] Next, with this operation gestalt, the rubber sheet S in which said slitting 10 was formed is bent to the sense which extends this slitting 10 as shown in drawing 4 and drawing 5, and the laminating of one [said] field Sa and the field Sb of another side is carried out in piles by turns. The slitting 10 of said rubber sheet S can carry out a laminating, repeating the so-called crest chip box and a trough chip box by turns, when the rubber sheet S was bent to the sense which extends said slitting 10a and 10b and it is based on one field Sa of this rubber sheet S , since the slitting 10a and 10b which adjoins each other in the direction of extrusion was formed in the field where rubber sheets S differ mutually. Such by bending and performing a laminating, as shown in drawing 4 and drawing 5, said staple fiber f can form the raw tread rubber object G by which orientation was carried out in the direction of thickness T from the rubber sheet S which carried out orientation of the staple fiber in the direction of extrusion.

[0022] Here, if slitting depth D (shown in drawing 3) of said slitting 10 is too deep, a rubber sheet S will become easy to go out at the time of the bending, and when said slitting depth D is too small conversely, there is an inclination to make a rubber sheet S hard to bend and for productivity -- it is not bendable with a sufficient precision -- to fall. Said slitting depth D is thickness [of said rubber sheet] t , for example, it is more desirable than such a viewpoint to consider as 50 - 80% more preferably 40 to 95%. Accommodation of such the slitting depth can be easily performed by changing the pushing depth to the rubber sheet S of the cutting edges 12a and 13a of said slitting formation equipment B .

[0023] Moreover, slitting 10a formed in one [said] field Sa of a rubber sheet S is understood that it is desirable for thickness T of said tread rubber object, abbreviation, etc. to be by carrying out between slitting 10b of the field Sb of another side, and to separate a pitch P so that clearly from drawing 4 and drawing 5. That is, by adjusting said pitch P of slitting 10 suitably, abbreviation etc. can be in this pitch P by carrying out, and the raw tread rubber object G of thickness T can be manufactured. Moreover, as shown in drawing 2, the pitch P of such slitting 10a and 10b can form the feed-rate sensor 13 which can detect the rate into which a rubber sheet S is fed, and can perform it easily by adjusting spacing of the press to the rubber sheet S by cutting edges 12a and 13a based on the detection signal from this sensor 13 etc.

[0024] Moreover, although such a pitch P may be fixed, it can also be made to change from a pitch $P1$ to a pitch $P2$, as shown in drawing 6 (A). In this case, as shown in this drawing (B), the level difference 17 approximated to the slot beforehand formed in the raw tread rubber object G at tread side 2a can also be formed.

[0025] Next, the process which forms and vulcanizes raw covering with which orientation of said staple fiber f was carried out to the abbreviation tire radial using such a raw tread rubber object G is performed. Although the raw tread rubber object G may be used independently, as shown in drawing 7, while making cap rubber section 9b, by this example, what formed the band-like tread rubber member TG beforehand together with wing rubber section 9c and undershirt tread rubber 9d etc., and used this for shaping of raw covering of a tire is illustrated as base rubber section 9a. In addition, the tread rubber member TG can also be formed like drawing 8. Moreover, as shown in drawing 9 (A) and (B), formation of raw covering twists carcass ply 6A around the drum K for molding which makes the shape of a cylinder, and equips with the bead core 5, bead EPEKKUSU 8, etc. After that, the both ends of carcass ply 6A are turned up, and sidewall rubber SG is stuck and carried out. Making the shape of a toroid carry out expansion deformation of the carcass ply 6A with the expansion objects j , such as a bladder, from the lumen side of a tire, as shown in drawing 9 (B) after an appropriate time narrowing spacing of a toe of bead 4, it coalesces in the belt plies 7A and 7B and the tread rubber member TG which were formed in the shape of a ring, and raw covering of a tire is formed.

[0026] And the pneumatic tire 1 as shown in drawing 1 can be manufactured by vulcanizing this with metal mold. In addition, as you may use so that it may be extended along a tire hoop direction as the axis (namely, longitudinal direction of slitting) 30 of bending of said rubber sheet S showed drawing 5, and shown in drawing 10, it is possible for the raw tread rubber object G to use so that said axis may meet tire shaft orientations. In the case of the former, when width uses the adult rubber sheet S comparatively, it can be used as it is, but when width uses the rubber sheet S of smallness, it can join together to a tire hoop direction and the band form for tire 1 round can be formed.

[0027] Although the operation gestalt of this invention was explained above, this invention is not restricted to the above-mentioned operation gestalt, but can deform into various gestalten and can be carried out. For example, slitting will become possible [performing the process which forms slitting in extrusion molding and coincidence of a rubber sheet S], if what made one the cutting edge extended to shaft orientations is used for the front face of the rollers R1 and R2 of on roll extrusion equipment A and the bottom. Moreover, it may replace with roll extrusion equipment A, and the extruder of a screw type may be used. Moreover, as long as slitting formation equipment B is not limited to the above-mentioned operation gestalt but can form the above slitting, it may consist of what kind of modes.

[0028]

[Example] While manufacturing the studless tire for passenger cars equipped with the structure which tire sizes are 195 / 65R15, and is shown in drawing 1 (example article) according to the manufacture approach of this invention, the test car (FR displacement of about 2000cm³) was equipped, and the transit test was performed on the ice road surface of -4 degrees C of outside air temperature. Moreover, a prototype was doubled and built also about the tire (example article of a comparison) by which orientation of the staple fiber was carried out to the tire hoop direction, and the engine performance was compared. A test result etc. is shown in Table 1.

[0029]

[Table 1]

| | 実施例品 | 比較例品 |
|------------------------------|------|------|
| 操縦安定性 (評点) | 4.0 | 2.5 |
| 制動距離 (m) [40 km/h ロック制動時] | 44.0 | 49.5 |
| 登坂性能 (評点) [4%勾配] | 4.5 | 3.0 |

[0030] In Table 1, the organic functions of a driver estimated driving stability. Moreover, about brake performance, the brake stopping distance until it performs full lock braking from rate 40 km/H and a car presents was measured. Moreover, the climb test is estimating the engine performance at the time of going up the ascent hill of 4% inclination of an ice road surface by the organic functions of a driver. In an example article, it can check raising the performance-traverse ability in **** sharply from the result of these tests.

[0031]

[Effect of the Invention] As mentioned above, when a staple fiber carries out orientation to the tire radial in tread rubber, by this invention, the pneumatic tire excellent in the performance-traverse ability in a snow-and-ice way can be manufactured easily.

[Translation done.]

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1. This document has been translated by computer. So the translation may not reflect the original precisely.
2. **** shows the word which can not be translated.
3. In the drawings, any words are not translated.

CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] While fabricating the rubber sheet which extruded the rubber ingredient which is not vulcanized containing a staple fiber, and carried out orientation of said staple fiber in said direction of extrusion substantially The process which forms in said direction of extrusion and abbreviation right angle, and the thickness direction of a rubber sheet at this rubber sheet, and forms slitting of the small depth in one field of this rubber sheet, and the field of another side by turns rather than this thickness, By bending said rubber sheet to the sense which extends said slitting, and carrying out the laminating of one [said] field and the field of another side in piles by turns The manufacture approach of the pneumatic tire characterized by including the process at which said staple fiber forms the raw tread rubber object by which orientation was carried out in the thickness direction, and the process which forms and vulcanizes raw covering with which orientation of said staple fiber was carried out to the abbreviation tire radial using this raw tread rubber object.

[Claim 2] Said rubber ingredient is the manufacture approach of the pneumatic tire according to claim 1 which comes to contain the staple fiber of 0.5 - 20 weight section to the rubber component 100 weight section.

[Claim 3] Said slitting is the manufacture approach of the pneumatic tire according to claim 1 or 2 characterized by the slitting depth D being 40 - 95% of thickness t of said rubber sheet.

[Claim 4] Slitting formed in one [said] field is the manufacture approach of the pneumatic tire according to claim 1 to 3 characterized by for the thickness of said tread rubber object, abbreviation, etc. being by carrying out between slitting of the field of another side, and separating a pitch.

[Translation done.]